

Office of the Vermont Secretary of State
Vermont State Archives

**Veto Message: Governor Dean
1994 (S.78)**

An act relating to water and sewer systems in mobile home parks.

STATE OF VERMONT
Executive Department.
Montpelier, Vt., June 22, 1994

The text of the communication from His Excellency, the Governor, whereby he vetoed and returned unsigned **Senate Bill No. 78** to the Senate as follows:

Robert H. Gibson, Secretary of the Senate
Vermont General Assembly
State House
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Bob:

I am returning herewith unsigned and within the time limit established in the Constitution, S.78, relating to water and sewer systems in mobile home parks.

This bill extends jurisdiction of the Agency of Natural Resources to water supply and wastewater facilities serving single family residences on their own individual lots and family day care homes, if the systems are creating an imminent or actual health hazard.

We are not aware of any testimony regarding this change and no resources were given to the agency to carry out its expanded duties. If the change was intentional, it is one that should have been debated. It appears that the change may have been inadvertent. The agency, however, is responsible for implementation whether the change is intentional or not, and permits will be required for systems that are not currently permitted.

The apparent purpose of the bill is to establish standards for water supply and wastewater systems serving mobile home parks, to be enforceable by ANR. Many of these systems are inadequate and unsafe, particularly in the older parks. The owner of a park will decide whether or not to upgrade a system, but it is the residents who are hurt when a system is unsafe or when a park is forced to close.

The several agencies and departments in state government who have an interest--principally, the Agency of Natural Resources, the Agency of Development and Community Affairs, and the Department of Health--will continue to work cooperatively to solve the very real problems of inadequate and unsafe systems with minimal disruption to tenants. I hope that better-drafted legislation designed to deal with this issue will be enacted quickly next year and I will support efforts to do this.

Sincerely,
/s/Howard B. Dean,
Governor

*Note: Pocket Veto -- The General Assembly adjourned June 12, 1994, ten days before the veto message was received.

Sources: *Journal of the Senate*, June 12, 1994 (pages 1384-1385)